



Student Government Resolution 120.022

A Resolution to Encourage the Divestment of the Truman State University Endowment Fund From Fossil Fuel-Based Companies

Sponsored by Ethan Kershaw, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair; Krishna Chebolu, Blaine Smallwood, Committee Members; Mike Owsley, Incoming Senator;

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University’s mission; and
- Truman State University has consistently recognized the importance of sustainability to its goals as an institution of higher learning; and
- The Student Government of Truman State University passed Resolution 081.002 “Endorsing the President’s Climate Commitment”¹ to reduce the carbon emissions from university activities; and
- The Strategic Sustainability Plan for 2016-2020 developed by the President’s Sustainability Action Committee (PSAC) includes a goal to “Review divestiture options with the Foundation Board on an annual basis”²; and
- The same Strategic Sustainability Plan advises the PSAC to “Monitor the efforts of the Student Government Environmental Affairs committee with regard to divestiture options regarding fossil fuels”; and
- Several student organizations including the Environmental Campus Organization (ECO)³, the Student Climate Union⁴, and the Progressive Student Alliance have also expressed support for divesting from fossil fuels; and
- The University has not provided any public updates on their progress in divesting from fossil fuel stocks; and

¹ <https://senate.truman.edu/previousessions/2007-2008-session-records/>

² <https://sustainability.truman.edu/files/2018/06/PSAC-Strategic-Goals-and-Initiatives-public.pdf>

³ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ifyvdvg42eBdE1Ce210tXwhDOqWc4o0G6ShbZe9kYi8/edit?usp=s_haring

⁴ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nranlqrDpSi_qol4uWlcuO7aCCFqiv2xwMxPsR6bA_/edit

- The investments made with the money of the Endowment Fund are not publicly available; and
- Truman State University's Endowment Fund contained \$50.6 million as of 2019⁵; and
- The Bulldog Student Investment Fund is responsible for managing over \$120,000 in funds⁶; and
- Other universities in the United States have taken steps to divest their endowment funds in recent years, including large schools such as the University of California⁷ and smaller schools such as Creighton University⁸; and
- Truman State University has committed to carbon neutrality by 2050⁹; and
- Without divesting from fossil fuel stocks this goal cannot be accomplished; and
- The impact of divestment is more than just financial because it shows a commitment to sustainability and to the current and future students of the university.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Supports the divestment of the Truman State University Endowment Fund and The Bulldog Student Investment Fund from fossil fuel stocks; and
- Requests that the Truman State University Foundation Board of Directors set a goal to divest from fossil fuel stocks by the year 2030 and provide yearly updates on their progress; and
- Commends the Bulldog Student Investment Fund for including Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria when considering new stocks to purchase; and
- Directs future Environmental Affairs Committee members to:
 - Maintain communication with the Bulldog Student Investment Fund and any campus offices, including the Advancement Office, that are involved in the investment of university funds,
 - Initiate these conversations with the University as early in the academic year as possible,
 - Contact other student organizations interested in the topic of divestment in order to demonstrate student support,
 - Consider authoring future resolutions relating to the University's progress on divesting from fossil fuels; and
- Encourages future Environmental Affairs Committees to revisit the topic of divestment yearly and remain informed on the progress of Truman State's Endowment Fund and the Bulldog Student Investment Fund in reducing their fossil fuel investments in order to

⁵ <https://www.truman.edu/giving/about-the-foundation/assets/>

⁶ <https://bsif.truman.edu/>

⁷ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/20/us/university-of-california-divest-fossil-fuels-trnd/index.html>

⁸ <https://diverseeducation.com/article/200431/>

⁹ <https://sustainability.truman.edu/coordination-planning-and-governance-toward-carbon-neutrality/>

ensure that sustainable and responsible investments are made that match Truman State University's stated goals of carbon neutrality and divestment from fossil fuels.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT:

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Truman State University Foundation Board of Directors; The Bulldog Student Investment Fund; Donna Liss, Chair of the President's Sustainability Action Committee; Christine Harker, Professor of English; David Rector, Vice President for Administration, Finance, and Planning; Ernie Hughes, Vice President for University Advancement; Michael Garzanelli, Truman State University Comptroller; The Environmental Campus Organization; Student Climate Union; Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by unanimous consent, April 18, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katie Alexander, President of the Student Association